

3/3/71

Dear Mita,

Your phone call of the other night was disturbing, and so is your letter of the 28th, postmarked the 29th, which didn't get here until today. I wish I had time to go into all aspects more or the possibility of getting out there. That can't happen unless the impossible happens, I get paid to make a speech. Nobody has wanted that lately.

How much Russ will switch or has is something we'll probably just have to wait to see. His letter is not like what you said and wrote. He did, finally, write me, saying, in effect, that he was just turned off by his experiences and was becoming apolitical. Not knowing what you now say, I had asked a simple thing of him. There has been plenty of time. He has not responded. However, he had earlier indicated that he would like to come here for part of a day some time this ~~next~~ month, coming in the a.m. and leaving in the p.m. Naturally, I suggested that he might make it longer.

First, on your breakup. He did not in any way suggest that you are in any way the cause. Nor did he suggest it might in any way be his fault. He merely said that it was a question of timing for both of you, that were you now to meet as strangers, neither would take a second glance at the other.

As you say or not not have detected, I considered some of those things in which he was interested as foolish and tried to suggest as much. I didn't doubt his sincerity, but I was and am without confidence in those he thought he might help. He is lucky to have survived. These are crazy, irresponsible people the more dangerous because they believe in their preconceptions.

I'm going to skim through your letter again. I read it hour ago, when it arrived. I'll come to a place where I can stop working without losing continuity, ~~hence~~ hence respond.

David: I hope it is the kind of relationship you say it is. But I don't think you are now in a position to judge. Not only because it didn't work last time, which could be because you were both younger but could also be for other reasons. After two times, find out first, not afterward. An old RCA Yiddish record from my childhood comes to mind. - hope you can get enough out of it and that I can be fairly faithful in phonetics:

Dudky brat, Dudky brat (Russian or Polish for fiddlesticks, brother)
Ahringle mit un yougle (ingle)
An ingie mit ah ringle
Dudky brat, dudky bratt!
Gib un a ringle mit an ingie,
Dudky Bratt!!

Take it slowly. Be sure, both of you. I don't know about him, but you are in an emotional bounce. If you are not, then there is something wrong with you. You should have had a severe emotional trauma. The mind seeks surcease, justification, something betokening righteousness and vindication. I'm sure that he is as nice and as quiet and as kind as you say, but more than that is required. So, give it time. Meanwhile, enjoy, enjoy!

David's political attitudes and his logic about the assassinations are detached. They are rational and reasonable but out of context. There are some things the mind simply will not confront. There are also some things the political mind will not confront. So far as my living here is concerned, his attitude is like that here one pretends a leg is not broken. One recognizes that the leg is broken and tries to do something about it. Too many young people see the unpleasant, what they regard as wrong, and conceive that the answer lies in flight. It never does. And running away is quitting, very unmanly. It is also time for him to understand that reporters do not control what is news or what gets onto the front page. Management does that. They have their own languages, their own pasts, their own apprehensions. This is a taboo, one of the few.

I think that Russ did love you. You may both have been looking for escapes and

sharing and meaning. He seems to think it was just a mistake because of the emotional state you each were in and he may be right. I think in your case you may have made the same mistake a different way, for a different reason.

Have you considered that his aloofness may have had nothing to do with you? That you did not cause it, have no responsibility for it? What he may have some inner conflicts he has not been able to resolve and that you were caught in the middle of them?

He has not mentioned the 18-year old. That is not as significant as you might think with a man whose emotions may be in turmoil. It may be unpleasant, but it also may not have real significance, may be more of a symbolic thing. I'm not a shrink, so I won't try to spell it out. However, I think you should not have trouble following this thread. Where there can be significance is in his political changes. When men undergo such profound inner changes, there can more likely be significance. I am by no means sure I can find an explanation I can accept, not on the basis of what I know. Men are unusually reluctant to regard themselves as betrayers, as radically wrong in their past beliefs, etc....

You say he has been in touch with Mrs. DePugh. He tells me they have folded. Fortunately, he has no idea where my informant is, so if he hints that it is in the Maryland area, fine. I alone am here. My source is not, leaving but 49 other states for them to guess about. However, I do wish you'd recall and put on paper everything you can think of on this, no matter how slight the detail. If you are uncertain, put it down and indicate uncertainty. You have not yet provided me with a real motive and I do want to understand exactly what he hopes to accomplish and what his purposes are. The Minutemen, for example, are on the way out. They are not what they were. So, what can he get from them? The one thing that comes to mind without time to give this deep thought is maybe he thinks he can do a book? But that, today, is not really hot, unless he visualizes some kind of novel, even a non-fiction novel. You realize any conjecturing I do is in terms of his being rational. He'd not now and can either or us really tell?

What I'd like you to do, including in any hints he may have made about one of her people being an informant in the Maryland area, is to think and take notes and send them to me as fast as you can. Try and orient them with specific things and events, like the time he came here with that girl who knew judo, to whom I gave the judo book, etc. Did he write her or phone? Was his contact that gun dealer or did he deal directly? He could not very well deal directly without running pretty certain risks of interception, as he is smart enough to have known. Which rises another possibilities. So, please take the time, try and include everything you can recall, indicate when you are not sure, give me all the names and dates you can, and as soon as you can. Keep copies and date them so you'll know what you have told me, and so I can refer. One of the things that concerns me is that he may have gone through the file and gotten the real name of the informant, and the real address. If something happened to him...And it has been a long time since I've heard from him.

What do you think would happen to him if those vinceramos people learned ^{what} ~~that~~ he did? I don't know then, but I suspect they can play pretty rough, too. The next question is, how do you know that this was really Mrs. DePugh? Could it have been someone else and he used her name to throw you off? And that leads to the question, what does anybody have on him that could hurt him or make him do what he might not otherwise? What could make him risk, for example, what the Panthers could do to him?

What kind of gun did he purchase that he loaned to a Panther who didn't return it? Guns, per se, are not illegal. Unless it was an illegal gun, his concern would more likely be that a crime had been or might be committed with it. Then his only problem, once it was traced to him, in proving what happened to it. You, apparently, can do that, so the heat would not be on him from what is apparent. There is something in this not immediately apparent, so do think some more. I know of Sims and their relationship, not the names but you say less than he told me. On this, he suspected there might be in Pittsburgh the man

kids

Who infiltrated those crazy rich ~~ixots~~ in New York who blew up the house of the father of one. Have you any hint of this, any suspicion, any knowledge? Whatever his motive, that man was in effect a murderer. However crazy those kids, they were killed. These are wrong things to me, whoever does them.

Is putting all of this on paper is too much (assuming there is more that you can tell me) can you borrow tape recorder?

At the moment the last thing I intend is to confront Russ. The first is to learn. I assume you and he are not in touch. Well, good, but if you are, say nothing about this. I want to learn what he is up to and why and what he has already done. It is also in his interest, for believe me, if anything happens to my source, he'll be in real trouble. And, if he knew my source, his reference to Maryland is not to my source but to me.

Toward the end, you refer to an ungiven time when you say "he 'seemed' (we can't be sure) to make the switch". Can you place it? It seems to have been toward the end of your being there. Can you date any of these things with your leaving Thomas, with his going to work for the clinic, things like that? Or with Harvey? Or whatever happened to your previous landlord? What kind of "power thing" do you think he is into?

When did you leave? I wrote him a letter April 1 he has yet to answer. He wrote me 7/4 saying you had left and that he was quitting everything. I am certain there was some change by April 1.

This has taken longer than I have, but I am anxious to get to the bottom. If I've forgotten anything, I hope you can anticipate it. Sorry about the typos.

Best from us both,